

Contact Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877 for more information on these events.

## PREPARING FOR WINTER WEATHER

### GET YOUR PROPERTY READY BEFORE THE SNOW FLIES

Winter and snow go hand in hand. Follow these tips to prepare the exterior of your property for winter weather, while also helping the City provide better service during a snow emergency.



Prepare the exterior of your home for snow:

- Clean leaves and other debris from your gutter. Dirty, clogged gutters can cause ice and snow buildup on your roof, leading to costly leaks.
- Turn on your snow blower to make sure it's in good working order.
- Drain your outdoor hoses and sprinklers and bring them inside so they don't freeze or crack.
- Make sure all your doors and windows are sealed and insulated tightly. Inspect doors and windows for cracks in the glass or deformed frames. Install storm doors and windows if you have them.



Help the City provide better snow plowing services:

- Maintain and repair mailbox posts. Mailboxes should not extend past the face of the curb and should be constructed of sturdy four-by-four lumber. Additionally, there should be no less than 45 inches between the ground and the bottom of the mailbox.
- Familiarize yourself with the City's snow-related ordinances and snow emergency procedures before a snow storm happens.

To receive snow alerts, visit the City's website, click on *E-Subscribe* and sign up to receive e-mail updates or follow the City on Facebook and Twitter.

For more information, visit the City's website, contact Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Jim Eiler at 952-563-8766 or e-mail [jeiler@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jeiler@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SNOW EMERGENCY.**

## PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

## HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH

### CURBING UNDERAGE DRINKING

#### BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL APPROVES SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE



Bloomington recently joined 65 Minnesota cities and 15 counties in adopting a social host ordinance. Bloomington City Council approved the new ordinance, designed to discourage underage alcohol use, in August.

The Social Host Ordinance makes it a criminal offense to host events where persons under 21 years of age are permitted to consume alcohol. Who is considered a "host" under the new ordinance? A host is the person who knowingly provides a venue for underage drinking to occur, regardless of their age and regardless of who provided the alcohol. Property owners and parents who were unaware of illegal alcohol consumption on their property while they were away from the residence do not meet the definition of a host.

Violation of the social host ordinance is a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and/or a fine of up to \$1,000.

To read the ordinance in its entirety, visit the City's website.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SOCIAL HOST.**



### FOCUS YOUR DRIVING STEER CLEAR OF DISTRACTIONS

When you're concentrating on the road there's no time for secondary tasks. That's why it is illegal in Minnesota for drivers to compose, read or send a text message or access the Internet on a wireless device when their vehicle is in motion or in traffic.

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, driver distraction is the leading crash factor in Minnesota, accounting for around 20 percent of all crashes annually, resulting in at least 70 deaths and 350 injuries. To reduce your risk, incorporate the following actions into your daily driving habits:

- Do not text or talk on a cell phone while driving.
- If driving alone, map out destinations in advance, and pull over to study a map or program the GPS.
- Learn to identify and anticipate potentially hazardous situations such as vehicles stopping suddenly.
- Always be on the lookout for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Allow yourself time to react to hazards by maintaining proper following distances.
- Check with your insurance company on reduced rates for completing defensive driving courses.

For more information, visit [www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org](http://www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org).

### KNOW THE DRILL

#### PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY IN YOUR HOME

Fire safety is serious business – that's why the City's Fire Prevention Division recommends that all residents sit down with their families and not only make an escape plan, but practice it.



Follow these tips to prepare your family in case of a fire:

- Make a map of your house with all possible exits and check that all doors and windows in your home open easily.
- Stay low while moving through smoke-filled rooms and hallways.
- Designate a meeting place that is a safe distance from your home to regroup in case of a fire.
- Under no circumstances should anyone go back into a burning structure. Bloomington firefighters should be the only ones performing rescues.

For more information, call Fire Inspector Kristopher Kaiser at 952-563-8968.

### HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FROM BLOOMINGTON POLICE



The time for trick-or-treating is fast approaching. Before you head out for your Halloween festivities, review these safety tips:

- Make sure your child's costume is reflective and flame retardant.
- Carry a flashlight or light stick.
- Children should be supervised by an adult while trick-or-treating.
- Keep in mind Bloomington weekday curfews:
  - Under 12 years-old – 9 p.m.
  - 12 - 14 years-old – 10 p.m.
  - 15 - 17 years-old – 11 p.m.
- If you're passing out candy, leave on an outside light and lock your door between visits.
- Check all candy before eating it, especially if your child has food allergies.
- For a safe and fun Halloween, attend the City's annual Halloween party, *see page 7*.

For more information, contact Officer Heidi Miller at 952-563-4975 or [hmillier@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:hmillier@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

### PROTECT YOUR PETS OBTAIN A PET LICENSE



All dogs, cats and ferrets, six months and older, must be licensed and vaccinated against rabies in Bloomington. The license tag attached to your pet's collar is not only important to show your pet has been vaccinated against rabies, but also proves ownership and helps to facilitate your pet's safe return if it becomes lost.

License applications are available on the City's website or at the Licensing counter located on the first floor of Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. If you have previously licensed your pet, a yearly renewal application will be mailed to you in November.

All pet owners should supply a copy of their pet's rabies certificate with their application.

For more information, contact Licensing at 952-563-8728.

**WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PET LICENSING.**